

THE 321ST INFANTRY

no casualties from shell fire, however, and the men found more cause for amusement than fear in these long range artillery attacks. Another sight still more interesting was the frequent anti-aircraft attacks upon visiting Boche planes. All those in reserve, nevertheless, felt more or less suspense, owing to the fact that they were subject to a call to action any hour of the day or night to repulse an infantry attack.

But our most unique experiences—those fraught with real excitement and never-ending interest, came to us in the front line trenches. By October 10 all companies had moved into the front line. The thirty days the 321st held the front line of this sector was enough to thoroughly initiate us into all that pertains to trench life. Among the things of which we will ever have a vivid recollection are: "Cooties," rats, mud, water, sleepless nights, endless guard duty, talking in a whisper, leaky, bunkless, overcrowded dugouts without light or heat. But nothing will be remembered with more vividness than the shells that came shrieking and frying through the air day and night, many of which played havoc with our trenches and dugouts. There is nothing that can more successfully divert the mind from the physical discomforts of guard duty in a muddy trench during a cold, rainy night than a Boche 77 that has your range and is placing a high explosive within a few yards of you every few minutes. Some-